In the Specification:

On page 1, please amend the title as follows:

Apparatus and method for ~~printing a web~~ fitting a web with transponders or transponder parts

On page 1, before paragraph [0001], please edit as follows:

~~DESCRIPTION~~BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

On page 1, please replace paragraph [001] with the following:

The invention relates to an apparatus for ~~printing~~fitting at least one web running continuously through it and also to a method for ~~printing~~fitting the web running through the apparatus with transponders or transponder parts, according to the preambles of Claims 1 and 10.

On page 1, please replace paragraph [002] with the following:

Apparatuses for ~~printing~~fitting webs, in particular paper webs, are widely known. By way of example, DE 27 18 299 A1 discloses a printing machine in which, in order to print a continuously vertically running web with different colours, a plurality of printing plate cylinders and rubber blanket cylinders of different printing units are arranged to print the colours onto the preferably endlessly running paper web. Such printing machines are usually designed to apply only colours to the paper webs.

On page 2, before paragraph [0006], please add the following:

DE 100 17 431 C2 describes a method and an apparatus for producing data carriers with integrated transponders. In this case, the transponders are supplied in a transponder web. Provided next to the latter is a cutting unit which respectively cuts individual transponders from the transponder web. The cutting unit executes its cutting movement while the transponder web is stopped. After this step, the transponder is applied to a label web. In the subject matter of DE 100 17 431 C2, therefore, stopping of the transponder web is required for the cutting operation. This reduces the throughput of the apparatus.

US 6,019,865 relates to a method for producing labels containing transponders. In this method, too, a web containing transponders is cut by means of a transponder cutter and the individual transponders are applied to an adhesive web. To do this, the web containing transponders is stopped. This results in a limited throughput of the apparatus when producing labels.

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EP 1 035 504 B1 describes an RFID transponder with a printable surface. No description is given of a method for producing the transponder and a corresponding production apparatus.

Summary of the Invention

On page 2, please replace paragraph [0006] with the following:

Accordingly, the object of the present invention is to provide an apparatus and a method for ~~printing~~fitting webs made of paper, plastic or other such materials with transponders or transponder parts, by means of which rapid production of~~printed~~ cards in large numbers with integrated data-reading and/or data-writing devices is possible, said cards being insensitive to dirt and allowing rapid data exchange.

On page 2, please replace paragraph [0008] with the following:

One essential point of the invention is that integrated in an apparatus for ~~printing~~fitting at least one web running continuously through it ~~is in addition~~with transponders or transponder parts is a device for continuously transferring individual transponders or transponder parts, based on the functional principle of radio frequency identification, from at least one continuously running carrier belt to the web while matching a running speed of the carrier belt to a predefined running speed of the web~~, wherein the running speed is defined by means of a printing procedure~~. In this case, at a predefined section of the carrier belt and of the web, a bonding device bonds the transponders or transponder parts to the web at synchronized running speeds. The running speed can be determined by a printing operation. By virtue of the continuous application and bonding of transponders or transponder parts to the web, that is to say without temporary stoppage of the web and/or of the carrier belt during this transfer operation, the situation is advantageously achieved, taking account of a synchronization of the running speed of the carrier belt and of the web, that for example the printing speeds of several hundred metres per minute in the case of conventional printing machines can also be maintained when integrating transponders or transponder parts.

On page 4, please replace paragraph [0017] with the following:

In a method for ~~printing~~fitting at least one web made of paper, plastic or other such materials running continuously through ~~an apparatus,~~the apparatus with transponders or transponder parts, the transponders or transponder parts are transferred from a carrier belt to the web by means of at least one transfer device, at a second speed of the carrier belt which is matched in a synchronous manner to a first speed of the web. In this case, in accordance with a

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principle contained in the transfer operation for mounting transponders or transponder parts on the web - also referred to as the substrate web - a predefined force is exerted on the transponder or the transponder part, which has already been applied to the web, at a predefined temperature by means of two rollers which encompass the web on its upper and lower side, this being preceded by a previously matched positioning of the transponders and in particular of the transponder parts at locations provided for this on the surface of the web. This relates in particular to the use of RFID modules as transponder parts which have to be matched in terms of their position to different spacings of terminal faces, such as antenna terminals for example, which may already be arranged on the substrate web.

On page 5, before paragraph [0019], please edit as follows:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

On page 5, before paragraph [0026], please edit as follows:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

On page 5, please replace paragraph [0026] with the following:

Fig. 1 shows a schematic cross-sectional diagram of the apparatus of the invention according to a first embodiment. The apparatus 1 for ~~printing~~fitting webs 2 running continuously through it with transponders or transponder parts consists of a roll 3 for winding up the web and a roll 4 for unwinding the web. The web 2 is for example a paper web or a substrate web made of plastic material and has a running direction as shown by an arrow 5.

On page 7, please insert after the last paragraph as follows:

KEY TO FIGURES

Bahnmaterial (Papier, Kunststoff etc)
= web material (paper, plastic, etc.)

Transportrichtung des Bahnmaterials
= transport direction of the web material

Aufwickel-Einheit = winding unit

Abwickel-Einheit = unwinding unit

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On page 8, please edit as follows:

List of references

1	apparatus ~~for printing~~
2	web
3	wind-up roll
4	unwinding roll
5	running direction of the web
6, 6a, 6b, 6c	unwinding roll
7, 7a, 7b, 7c	wind-up roll
8	carrier belt
9	running direction of the carrier belt
10	transponder
10a	transponder part
11, 11a, 11b, 11c	bonding unit
12, 13, 14	transfer device
15	colour-printing unit
16	laminator unit
17	rollers
18	lamination unwinding units
19	laminating layer
20	stacking unit
21	section without carrier
22	wedge-shaped device
23, 24	rollers

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